NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE
NEWS

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Third International Congress of Medical Librarianship

The Third International Congress of Medical Librarianship, meeting in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, May 5-9, 1969, presented a challenging contrast between sophisticated machine systems and underdeveloped libraries.

Dr. P. J. Gaillard, president of the Congress, said that the Congress represented a confrontation of the new developments in the automation of medical documentation and the librarian who works with old-fashioned methods. "That the computer should be fully introduced for documentation work has been clearly stressed," he said, adding, "The Congress has proved this to be the most important point: we must obtain coordination of different documentation systems; unity in terminology and coding must come first. If we want to communicate with each other, then we must speak the same language."

H.R.H. The Prince of the Netherlands, perhaps better known as Prince Bernhard, officially opened the Congress, telling the members that "Today's librarian is not just someone looking after a collection of books, but someone who is handling knowledge and information. Your task has become such a specialized one that even the most critical layman cannot any longer deny that you must be able to speak, on a basis of equality, with specialists in other fields, in your case with members of the medical profession, about the information in your keeping. The librarian has also to offer this information to the user on his own initiative. In short he is not simply a librarian, but he is also an information officer."

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Japan - U.S. Conference

The first Japan - U.S. Conference on Libraries and Information Science in Higher Education was held in Tokyo, May 15-19. Dr. Martin M. Cummings, Director, NLM, was among those attending. The purpose of the conference was to explore specific means of cooperation and developmental activities for the libraries of the two countries. Japanese sponsors included the National University Libraries Council, the Public University Libraries Council and the Private University Library association. The American sponsor was the American Library Association and in particular the ALA International Relations Advisory Committee for Liaison with Japanese Libraries. Thomas R. Buckman, University Librarian, Northwestern University, was Chairman of the American Organizing Committee for the Conference.

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Report From The New England Journal of Medicine

The New England Journal of Medicine, in its issue of May 15, 1969, features an editorial entitled CLOSING THE COMMUNICATIONS GAP, by Dr. Stewart Wolf, Chairman of the Board of Regents of the National Library of Medicine, and Regent Professor of Medicine and Psychiatry, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

The editorial points out that "a few years ago the National Library of Medicine made the most notable advance in biomedical communications of this century when it perfected and launched the MEDLARS system of on-demand medical-bibliography retrieval.

"It is currently supporting several abstract and critical review services - services that are used mainly by medical scientists and teachers. The need now is to offer educational services that are attractive, useful and easily available to the physician in practice. The National Library of Medicine, through its Lister Hill Center, hopes to develop a comprehensive program for the continuing education of the physician as soon as funding permits.

"Plans for appropriate systems have already been worked out to inter-relate medical schools and community hospitals and even physicians' offices and homes to serve the purposes of lifetime learning, now more necessary than ever for the safe, effective practice of medicine. Through its National Medical Audiovisual Center, the National Library of Medicine has the capability of servicing the communications network with the most advanced and skillfully produced materials."

Dr. Wolf wrote that much of the continuing education of physicians in community hospitals consists of a critical look at recent experience through review of records. "The value of the process," he stated, "could be greatly enhanced by the use of a computerized record system. Practice could be further upgraded through sharing of experiences with other hospitals as well."

He added that these needs have been recognized by the Board of Regents and staff of the National Library of Medicine, that the Lister Hill Center has made the necessary analysis of equipment and circuitry required, and has accomplished much of the systems design needed to achieve the necessary innovations and improvements in communications.

Medlars Workshop

Participating in the Library's most recent MEDLARS Workshop, May 26-28, 1969. were 19 searchers and others from MEDLARS stations in this country and abroad. Also taking part in the three days' sessions were the 13 trainees now at NLM, and members of the Library staff.

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Tribute to Atherton Seidell, Ph. D.

To the late Dr. Atherton Seidell belongs the credit of establishing photoduplication services in the National Library of Medicine. MEDICOFILM, together with BIBLIOFILM based on the Library of The Department of Agriculture, developed the use of microfilm as a substitute for the lending of journals.

On Dr. Seidell's death, The Smithsonian Institution contracted with his niece, Miss Elizabeth E. Medinger, to prepare a short memoir of Dr. Seidell's career. A copy of this manuscript memoir has been acquired by the NLM. The paper, dated January 31, 1964, is titled, "A Brief History of the Activities of Atherton Seidell, Ph.D. (1878 - 1961) In the Field of Documentation."

Miss Medinger wrote that it was in his capacity as an active research worker and as the compiler of a standard text on solubilities that Dr. Seidell met the problem of locating information contained in journals held by dispersed libraries. Seidell, a research chemist at The Hygienic Laboratory, Public Health Service (now NIH), had great technical ability which enabled him to design photographic equipment.

In 1926 Dr. Seidell learned of the use of microfilm from a friend who was the chief of the Maison de la Chimie in Paris. In 1928 it was necessary for him to travel to Monaco to the scientific library there to obtain information for his Solubilities. This expedition impressed him greatly. It was necessary for him to spend his own money to accomplish this, to leave his scientific work in his laboratory and to be away alone, without his family. At this time he began to think of a "microfilm" service" and what it would and could mean to so many engaged in research. He thought also of the inequity of being able to use a library only if it were at hand. From this time forward he never stopped working on his plan to obtain free microfilm services for all research workers - everywhere - and so convinced was he that he arranged for these ideas to be carried on, long after he would need them or be able to use them. It was the problem of the research worker in his relations with libraries that interested him - he did not wish to try to solve the problems of libraries, Miss Medinger reported.

In a letter to Dr. Lamb of Harvard University in 1943, Dr. Seidell wrote that "There should be no more restriction on devoting operating funds to microfilm copying for the benefit of the wider circle of users at a distance than on that devoted to rendering personal service to those who come to the library. It should not be necessary to conduct microfilm copying on a self sustaining basis anymore than to require payment for any of the other services rendered. This is a discrimination against users at a distance that is certainly not justified in the case of nationally and publically supported libraries."

Dr. Seidell died in 1961 experiencing disappointment that his accomplishments had been less than his dream - still working for his ideal, unaware of the value his efforts for his fellow researcher had been. He was extremely proud of the progress of some of the services which he started - "The example of the National Library of Medicine in providing free photoduplicating service, certainly should be an inducement to many reference libraries, to begin service, especially since the NLM provides photocopies only of the publications not available at the library from which

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International Congress (Continued from Page 1)

Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director, NLM, was one of two honorary presidents of the Congress. The other honorary president was Dr. Folke Ström of Sweden. In his address at the opening of the Congress, following Prince Bernhard, Mr. Adams said that "Over the intervening years since 1963, we have made steady progress in developing medical library resources. The number of newly founded medical libraries has grown with each year. Interlibrary loans among countries are increasing. We have developed programs to share the costs, internationally, of cataloging the books and journals we receive. TWX and TELEX link us more closely together. We have, in fact, the rudiments of a world network of medical libraries. Because we have common goals and common concerns, it is not unreasonable to expect that before the next Congress occurs, we shall have to do much to perfect this network. Our end objective as a profession should be to insure that no worker in the sciences promoting human health, lacks access to the information needs for his education, for his research, and for the care of his patients."

Dr. Joseph Leiter, Associate Director for Library Operations, NLM, one of the featured speakers at the five-day international meeting, presented a detailed analysis of operating experiences and difficulties in establishing and maintaining the MEDLARS operation. He said that NLM has operated the successful computer-based information system for six years and has provided more of the augmented services and capabilities than had been designed. He said, "Our system was designed to operate for five years. We are completing six years soon. In a sense, we are living on borrowed time. Beginning in 1967 the Library initiated plans to expand our goals and to provide the capabilities which current technology affords. In June of 1968 we awarded a contract for design and implementation of MEDLARS II. This will be a 3-4 year project on incremental upgrading with a first phase of implementation early in 1970."

Dr. Leiter told the group that when MEDLARS II is fully operational, "the system will incorporate: (1) increased processing capability; (2) intermediate access storage; (3) time sharing; and (4) on-line access to data bases from remote terminals. Translated into capabilities, this will provide: (1) a greatly increased file capacity which will permit maintenance of abstracts; (2) quicker response to increasing volume ; (3) more current data through on-line record updating; (4) a fully automated acquisition and cataloging system with cataloging available to and from other libraries through remote terminal access; (5) development of specialized information services for drug literature, toxicology, and for such networks as the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, and (6) support of the data processing and data transmission activities of a biomedical communications network."

Others attending the international congress from NLM included Miss Barbara Burhans, Cataloging Section, TSD, and Miss Rosalie Bruning, an indexer at NLM for the American Journal of Nursing Company.

See photograph on opposite page.

At the reception by the Netherlands Government and the City Council of Amsterdam in the Rijksmuseum, Dr. P. J. Koets, the deputy mayor of Amsterdam, right, greets Mr. Scott Adams, Deputy Director, NLM, and honorary president of the Third International Congress on Medical Librarianship. From left to right: Dr. P. J. Gaillard, President of the Congress; Mr. Adams, Dr. Joseph Leiter, Associate Director for Library Operations, NLM, a featured speaker at the Congress; an official from the Office for Public Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Public Health, the Netherlands, and Dr. Koets.

Workshop (Continued from Page 2)

The first day's sessions included a discussion by Norman P. Shumway, M.D., Chief, Medical Subject Headings Section, Bibliographic Services Division, on MeSH term suggestions submitted in recent months. The afternoon was devoted to a presentation by Dr. Raquel S. Halegua, Special Assistant to the Associate Director for Library Operations, of the MEDLARS User Orientation Program, a series of slides, lectures, and practical exercises devised for outside user groups.

Miss Sarah Jean Jackson of the Alabama MEDLARS station opened the session on May 27 with a discussion of "Criteria for Request Acceptance/Rejection." Miss Elizabeth Yeates, NIH Library, then spoke on "Non-MEDLARS Reference Sources," and Mr. Ralph Simmons, NLM, closed the morning with a report on the status of MEDLARS II.

Featured during the afternoon of May 27 were an indexing (revision) exercise conducted by Mrs. Thelma Charen, Indexing Section, BSD, and a general discussion, led by Mr. William H. Caldwell, Deputy Chief, BSD, on future workshop planning.

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Conference (Continued from Page 1)

The conference was the outgrowth of many years of close relationships between Japanese and U.S. libraries, following the visit to Japan in 1963 of Douglas Bryant, the University Librarian of Harvard University, in which he spent two months in Japan visiting and lecturing at Japanese universities.

The conference sought to encourage the exchange of views between the senior professional librarians in both countries, to provide liaison between the professional committees involved, and to increase the number of opportunities for exchange of personnel between the libraries of Japan and the United States.

One of the highlights of post-conference seminars to be held will be a panel discussion of changes taking place in Japanese and U.S. universities and how they affect libraries.

On May 28-30, an Asia Pacific Conference on Libraries in National Development was held in Seoul, Korea. Four of the delegates to the Japan - U.S. Conference appeared on the program in Seoul, and a number of other Americans attended as observers. The four were David H. Clift, Executive Director of the American Library Association; Lester Asheim, Director of the Office for Library Education, ALA; Foster E. Mohrhardt, Program Officer for the Council on Library Resources, Inc.; and Raynard C. Swank, Dean of the School of Librarianship, University of California.

Workshop (Continued from Page 5)

On May 28, Dr. Joseph F. Caponio, of the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Stroke, addressed the Workshop on "The Information Network of Minds," after which Clifford A. Bachrach, M.D., Chief, BSD, spoke on the NLM Literature Search series. Dr. Roger V. Ohanesian, Office of Collaborative Research, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, then presented an especially informative and stimulating talk on current developments in transplantation immunology.

Two search exercises on precision-versus-recall searching were the basis of talks by Mr. Robert Lawrence, University of Michigan MEDLARS Station, and Mrs. Gertrude Fox, Search Section, BSD. The Workshop closed with a description by Mrs. Grace T. Jenkins, BSD, of the Library's MEDLARS quality control activities - how data on the appraisal forms returned by users are tabulated and interpreted to provide continuous monitoring of the demand search activity.

Library Plans New Lobby Exhibit

"Historical Highlights in the Conquest of Tuberculosis" will be the next exhibit to be displayed in the NLM lobby. The exhibit will portray men of science who helped solve the mystery of tuberculosis, and some of the highlights of the long battle against this dread disease. The exhibit is scheduled to open on July 21st.

Medlars User Orientation Program

The MEDLARS user orientation program, which the Library began to present in 1968, has now been formalized as a full-day audiovisual presentation, divided into five parts. Trained MEDLARS analysts conduct the presentations, which are illustrated with 150 slides. The five parts are:

1. THE MEDLARS OVERVIEW: a general description of the system.
2. MEDLARS INDEXING: a more detailed description of how journal articles are indexed, and the characteristics of Medical Subject Headings.
3. SEARCHING IN MEDLARS: characteristics and analysis of requests made to the system, and their translation into search strategies.
4. MEDLARS-IN-CONTEXT: the types of requests that are or are not suitable for MEDLARS search, with reference to other sources of biomedical information.
5. MEDLARS CAPABILITIES AND LIMITATIONS: factors affecting the success or failure of a search and how requesters can make optimum use of the system.

Parts 2 and 3 include practical exercises. A typical biomedical article is indexed by each participant, and a request is reduced to a search strategy. Standard indexing and searching strategies are presented for group discussion.

The Library is planning to establish orientation programs in all the regional centers which provide MEDLARS services. Initially, NLM staff will assist regional MEDLARS personnel in setting up these programs.

Each station will be responsible for systematically orienting the various user groups in the area: clinicians, researchers, medical librarians, medical students and educators, and hospital staff. To this end, the stations are developing plans for series of orientations to be presented over a six-to twelve-month period. The following schedule is planned for the next few months:

June 24 - Houston, Texas
June 27 - University of Alabama
June 27 - Federal medical librarians and Federal library users, Washington, D. C.

July 8 - University of California, Los Angeles
July 10 - University of Washington
July 29 - University of Colorado
July 29 - Houston, Texas
July 31 - University of Alabama
July 31 - John Crerar Library, Chicago

August 1 - University of Chicago Graduate Library School

September 3 - University of Colorado
September 9 - UCLA
September 9 - John Crerar Library, Chicago
September 11 - Wayne State University, Detroit
September 25 - College of Physicians, Philadelphia
September 25 - George Washington University Medical School, Washington, D. C.

November 18 - Baltimore Hospital Librarians
November 20 - Medical Specialists Corps (Association of Military Surgeons), Washington, D. C.

Correction

In announcing the availability of Literature Search No. 5-69 in the March-April issue of the News, the title was incorrectly listed as "Heart Transplantation in Man." The bibliography's correct title is "Heart Transplantation "; coverage includes transplantation in animals as well as man.

Personnel

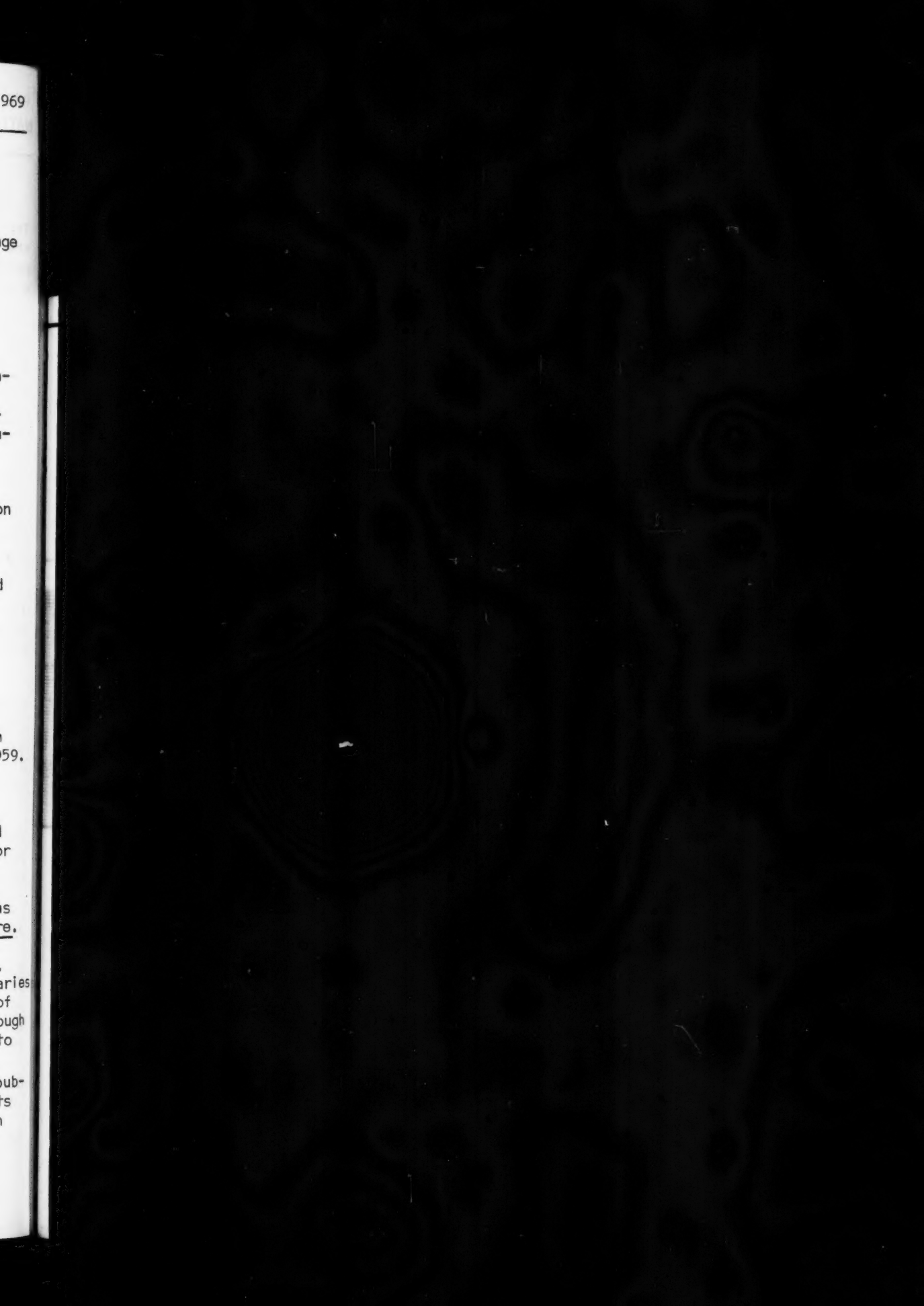
Dr. Andrew M. Sherrington, formerly Special Assistant to the Deputy Director, Scientific Analyst in the Information Systems Division, and Acting Senior Scientific Editor under the Visiting Scientist Program, and a graduate of the NLM-supported Program in Biomedical Communication of the Tulane University of Louisiana, has been appointed Chief of a new Scientific Information Division in Canada's Department of National Health and Welfare in Ottawa. The Departmental Library forms an integral part of the new Division.

Mrs. Mary Virginia Clark has been appointed Acting Head of the Reference Section at the National Library of Medicine. Mrs. Clark has been with the National Library of Medicine since 1963 when she was appointed as an NLM Intern.

Mrs. Clark received her B.A. degree in Bacteriology from De Pauw University and her M.A. in Library Science from Indiana University. She is a member of the Medical Library Association and Beta Phi Mu.

Seidell (Continued from Page 3)

requests for this service are received. It certainly would be an advantage if more reference libraries extended the service they render by means of microfilm copying," he wrote in a letter to E. Johnson at the University of Chicago in 1959.

The service he founded, and one that he considered his most successful, was Medicofilm Service, established at the Army Medical Library, now NLM. At this library he was also able to convince the staff that the medical sciences needed a more rapid means of communications than was afforded by the Index-Catalogue or the Quarterly Cumulative Index Medicus, and that the advent of photocopying services in libraries called for a weekly index to provide for prompt, timely listing of the tables of contents of journals received in the library. Thus was founded at Dr. Seidell's personal expense the Current List of Medical Literature.

In order to convince librarians that his ideal was ethical, consistent, timely, necessary and workable, it was his policy to offer microfilm equipment to libraries and his services in setting up a unit, if they in turn would adopt his policy of offering free service. A number of units were set up at home and abroad. Through the offices of UNESCO in Paris he published his offer to the world, proposing to give the installation to important reference libraries who would in turn agree to give microfilm copies of articles desired, free of charge. This offer was publicized in UNESCO, and as fast as the cameras could be made, his microfilm units began to girdle the globe - Europe, Asia, Middle East, Africa, Australia, South America and North America.